



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

*Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861*

**JULY/AUGUST 2017**

HONEYMOON PERIOD:  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OR THE END OF THE BEGINNING?

Be filled with the Spirit,  
as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves,  
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,  
giving thanks to God the Father at all times  
and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-21

Within the life of new relationships, there comes a time - The end of the honeymoon phase. Those in relationship often struggle with what's next. Is this "the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning?" Do I fully know you and you fully know me? Are we bored, irritated, or uncertain?

Well, believe it or not, it is coming up on one year from the day that you the members of St. John Lutheran voted on July 17, 2016 to extend the call to me to serve as your Pastor in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and one year from the day on August 26, 2016 that my family pulled into Montgomery to start the process of settling in.

I have had the privilege to have had some very real people in my life clue me in on some of the best and sometimes scariest advice that I have ever received: "You can spend your whole life together in relationship with another person and still be surprised by the things that you didn't know about them." We don't ever fully know the other person. This is part of the gift of relationship.

Short sighted perception is threatened by the question of "Is this the beginning of the end?" But I can gladly say that it has been great getting to know you better and joining together with you here in life of ministry in Christ's name. I will be the first to admit that I don't know everything there is to know about all of the members of this church nor all of the quirks and gems of this church. I do look forward to growing in this relationship as we move forward together.

Now, "the end of the beginning," yep that might be alright! There are parts of the honeymoon phase that need to be moved on from. In any relationship, there are things that never get said, issues that get avoided, forgiving and forgiveness left unshared, and brokenness left unnamed. We are not married, but we are in a relationship with one another called together in ministry and mission in Jesus' name. We are in relationship with one another, so that means that if you have something that you need to say to me, please say it. And, the same goes for me. There will be changes and challenges ahead, but they are also met with the opportunities, strength, and growth that we bring together.

Three areas of change coming in the months ahead will be: 1) Transition to the Confirmation Process. Process descriptions, guidelines, schedules, and topics will be available on our website or by contacting myself or the Education Committee. 2) Beginning on September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion within our services. Please come and join our forums on the Sacrament of Holy Communion throughout on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month throughout the summer hear more about this sacrament and join the discussions. 3) Transition in the Secretary position, as Kay Busch will be retiring from her position before the end of September. She has served this congregation faithfully in serving in this position, and we look forward to the many other ways she finds to continue sharing her gifts within the life of our congregation. We look forward to finding and working with the person hired to fill this position.

As those called, gathered, and kept by the Holy Spirit through the gospel of Jesus Christ, may we turn to and trust in the one who keeps us in our relationship with one another.

Peace of Christ,

*Pastor Jason*

## July Worship Helpers

### Readers

July 2 Marilyn Richter  
 July 9 Anne Schroeder  
 July 16 Gail Skluzacek  
 July 23 Eric Schroeder  
 July 30 Jesse Skluzacek

### Head Usher

July 2 Kathy Peterson  
 July 9, 16, 23 Carol Kiekow  
 July 30 Connie Cihak

### Ushers / Greeters

July 2 Gerry & Dianna Smith  
 Beryl & Garie Teig  
 July 9 David & Rhonda Solberg  
 Phillip Solberg  
 Myrna Terwedo  
 July 16 Doug & Karen Thompson  
 Greg & Jessica Westerman  
 July 23 Rich & Liz Vlasak  
 Ted & Colleen Wondra  
 July 30 Paul Vollmar  
 Cindy Westerhouse  
 Jeanne Anderson  
 Volunteer Needed

### Communion Assistants

July 9 Kathy Derhaag  
 Erin Krautkremer  
 Ruth Kukacka  
 July 23 Don Marcussen  
 Maridan Nesmoe  
 Tammie Pan

### Acolytes

July 2 Preston Anderson  
 July 9 Derrick Horejsi  
 July 16 Caleb Cihak  
 July 23 Dustin Horejsi  
 July 30 Caleb Cihak

### Altar Guild

Volunteers Needed

*If you are unable to help on the day assigned,  
 please EXCHANGE with someone else  
 and call the church office at 507-364-5002.  
**Thank you for your help!***

## Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Drop off or e-mail (stjohnelca@frontier.com)  
 information to the church office by:

- ◆ Thursday for the bulletin.
- ◆ The 25th of August for the September newsletter.

## August Worship Helpers

### Readers

August 6 Steve Schroeder  
 August 13 Dianna Smith  
 August 20 Renee Sorenson  
 August 27 Cindy Westerhouse

### Head Usher

To be determined

### Ushers / Greeters

August 6 Rhonda Berg  
 Jim Blum  
 Volunteers Needed  
 August 13 Tom & JoAnn Dawson  
 Kathy Derhaag  
 Ralph Hendrickson  
 August 20 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik  
 John & Lori Helling  
 August 27 Myron & Peggy Hentges  
 Lynden & Deb Jelinek

### Communion Assistants

August 13 Steve & Anna Schroeder  
 Brenda Peterson  
 August 27 Gerry & Dianna Smith  
 Cheryl Schulte

### Acolytes

August 6 Dustin Horejsi  
 August 13 Natalee Korbitz  
 August 20 Wyley Peterson  
 August 27 Natalee Korbitz

### Altar Guild

Deb Jelinek  
 Wendy Vargo

*If you are unable to help on the day assigned,  
 please EXCHANGE with someone else  
 and call the church office at 507-364-5002.  
**Thank you for your help!***

## Groups & Organizations that meet at St. John!

*To ensure our calendar is correct and that we  
 have the church open for your event,  
 please inform Pastor Jason or Kay of your  
 planned meeting dates.*

## Financial Corner General Fund - May

	May	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 10,906.64	\$ 73,907.19
Expenses	\$ 15,449.15	\$ 81,273.83
Cash Flow	\$ (4,542.51)	\$ (7,366.64)

# St. John Church Council Minutes

June 25, 2017

Present: Eric Schroeder (1/2018), Greg Westerman (1/2019), Liz Vlasak (1/2018), Connie Cihak (1/2018), Carol Kiekow (1/2019), Kathy Peterson (1/2020), Steve Schroeder (1/2020), Renee Sorenson (1/2020) Wendy Vargo (1/2020)  
Pastor Jason Pollington.

Eric Schroeder called the meeting to order at 11:10 am.

Pastor Jason indicated he did devotions earlier. Pastor Jason reported on his activities and presented council with a written report.

Discussion followed on the forums on Communion every Sunday. Renee made a motion, seconded by Carol to pursue Communion every Sunday, begin intinction on Saturday evenings in August, with all changes implemented beginning with Rally Sunday in September. Eight votes in favor, 1 opposed; motion carried.

Secretary's report from May – Carol moved to approve, Greg seconded; motion carried.

Liz Krocak representing the Audit committee gave the Audit report. Discussion followed; the council acknowledged their appreciation for the work, time and recommendations of the Audit committee. Greg made a motion to accept their recommendations, Carol seconded; motion carried.

Liz gave the Treasurers report, along with an update of the new software, needs and the status of all the various groups within the structure of St John. Council gave Liz Vlasak the authority to take actions necessary to handle accounts payable during the transition period of new software, new Administrative Person in the office. Kay Busch has announced to the council her desire to retire from church Secretary.

Liz Vlasak made the motion to add Wendy Vargo as additional signee to our account at Frandsen Bank, Steve Schroeder seconded; motion carried.

No recipient identified for Feed My Sheep.

## Old Business:

Kathy reported on the landscape at the parsonage – and presented a bill for services completed at this point.

## New Business:

Kay Busch has indicated her retirement plans as Secretary for St John.

High school reception had a great turnout to honor our graduating seniors.

New Member Sunday received 4 new families; a reception by the Evangelism Committee was served.

Head Ushers:

July 2 – Kathy Peterson

July 9, 16 and 23 – Carol Kiekow

July 30, Connie Cihak

Renee made to motion to adjourn at 12:28 PM, Greg seconded, motion carried.

Closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Cihak

## Remember in your Prayers...

Nancy Vollmar, Marcia (Koschade) Solberg, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trendera, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Sorenson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Greg Vlasak, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Nancy Creger, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

## Remember those serving our country...

Adam Smith, Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Matthew Astorino, and Adam Vlasak.

## Wedding

*Congratulations and best wishes to  
Matt and Ashley (Krohn) Loftus  
who were married Saturday, June 17.*

## Thank You

*Thank you to everyone who sent me cards following the deaths of my son and sister. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated.  
Myrna Terwedo*

## *We Extend Our Sympathy to:*

*Myrna Terwedo and family upon the death of her son  
Larry Athey and her sister Joan June.*

*Betty Braun and family upon the death of her sister  
Joan Bruns and her brother Charles Kewatt.*

*Pastor Jason Pollington, Megan Pratola and family  
upon the death of Megan's step father Ted Schmidt.*

*the family of Ruth Nimerfroh who passed away  
Saturday, June 24.*

## **Baptism**

*Mother/daughter Janna Marie (Peterson) Wondra and  
Evalyn Marie Wondra were baptized Saturday, June 3.  
Evalyn was born December 27, 2014 to Theodore and  
Janna Wondra. Her sponsor is Avoria Zuehlke. Janna's  
sponsor is Josh Peterson.*

*Mother/son April Ehmke and Chase Carl Ehmke were  
baptized Sunday, June 25. Chase was born July 17,  
2016 to Mark and April Ehmke. Chase's sponsors are  
Chad Ehmke and Crystal Godush.*

*God's blessings to Janna, Evalyn, April, Chase and  
their families.*

## LET'S THINK ABOUT MONEY

During the months of July and August, we will be making available a stewardship tool to the members of St. John Lutheran. There are three things that people avoid talking about politics, religion, and money. The result of this is that we don't talk about them at all. All three of them are gifts from God. So, how do we approach these gifts with thanksgiving?

In government, we name the brokenness, but we also understand the care and provision that good government brings. In faith, we turn to God's word and believe that it is for us - for it reveals His love and mercy shown through Jesus Christ. Money tends to be the one that we are most challenged by. We see it as private. We see it as ours. We see it as something that we may have enough of or way too little of. Money is not a god. It will never fully give us security. But, it is a tool and a gift from God that we use on account of our Father in heaven care and just one of our gifts of daily bread.

"Writing a Money Autobiography" is a tool that allow us to explore what our thoughts on money are and may be used in a way for us to gain some understanding from where some of those thoughts have come.

This is confidential. You do it within the comfort of your own home, or you can do it out in public. You can do it in the dark of night, or you can do it in the light of day. You can keep it to yourself, or you can feel free to share what you've learned.

Learning to talk about money is one way that we can learn to be stewards of it.

### WANT TO HELP OUT?

As a part of the conformation programing changes, we will be meeting on Wednesday nights with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders throughout the year. There will be many ways that you can lend a hand to help facilitate 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation. We will be having a meal from 6-6:30 PM and we will be gathering for our sessions from 6:30-7:30 PM.

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

**2-3adult/high school helpers**

**Parents/Volunteers to prepare meals for 23-28 Confirmands & Helpers**

**Parents will be asked to help participate, and we will open this up to members of the congregation if they are interested and helping out, as well.**

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### Fall Grief Support Group

*"I am thinking of her nearly always."*

C.S. Lewis



This quote comes from the book, A Grief Observed written by C.S. Lewis about his experiences after the death of his wife. When you have lost a loved one it is oftentimes hard to understand what you are feeling and if those feelings are normal.

We just finished a six-week spring grief support group at the church. Grief support groups are one of the best helping resources for those who have lost a loved one thru death. A participant shared that attending "helped them in not feeling alone and feeling comforted from others in the group". They also learn that while their own grief is unique they can experience similarities and understand they are not alone in their feelings. Also, to be patient and compassionate with themselves and feel what they feel - no one can tell them how they should be feeling as they are the expert in their own grief.

A six-week grief support group will be offered again in the fall during the month of October-November. If you have any questions or would like to register please contact me or the church.

Thank you to the church for hosting this much needed community service "*helping people mourn well so they can live well and love well*" (Dr. Wolfelt). Also, thank you to Irene Jindra for being co-facilitator.

Brenda Peterson  
701-269-1439

## Let's Talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion

As a way of having intergenerational learning and looking ahead to some additions to our worship services starting in September. We will be having short discussions open to all following the 9AM Sunday Service throughout the Summer held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month**. You can grab a treat and join us in conversations. *Topics and discussion are built around those confirmation age and older, but everyone is invited (the younger ones usually willing to ask questions that will help us all learn together).*

### July 9<sup>th</sup>

Where do we find the Lord's Supper in Scripture?

Does Faith Matter?

Who is invited to the Sacrament of Communion?

At what age can you start receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

What do we intentionally do here at St. John to help the recipient of Holy Communion live into the promise given and received?

### July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Communion at St. John in September

Why will we be having Holy Communion more often?

When will we be starting this?

How often will we be receiving Holy Communion?

What will it look like for each of the services?

In what ways can you be invited to assist with this?

### August 13<sup>th</sup> & August 27<sup>th</sup>

I Don't Know If I Could Help Serve Communion!

I Don't Know If I Could Help Out With Altar Guild! Or

I Would Like to Help Out with Communion, But I've Never Been Asked!

I Would Like to Help Out with the Altar Guild, But I've Never Been Asked! Or

What in the world is the Altar Guild?

On these two Sundays in August, Pastor Jason and members of the Altar Guild Committee at St. John will be meeting with anyone who is confirmation age or older who has an interest in learning more about how you can help out within either of these two areas.

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## **July/August Music Notes**

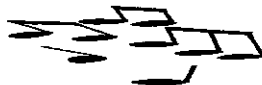
The Bells of St. John are looking for TWO handbell ringers starting this fall. Two of our ten members will be leaving the bell choir and we need someone (male or female) to ring their bells. We practice September through May on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. We usually ring in church the last Sunday of the month. It would help if the ringer could read music, but not necessary. While each ringer has only certain assigned notes, he or she must learn to depend on, and be dependable to those who ring all the other notes. It combines physical movement with musical expression. If you are interested, contact a bell ringer or Kathy Heyda.

Last January when I celebrated my 50th year of making music (playing organ) at St. John Lutheran Church, Isaac Schroeder was moved to learn how to play the organ. He asked me to teach him. Over the last 5 months we met for organ lessons. He played his first song on the organ during the church service on Father's Day. In First Thessalonians 5:11 we are told to *"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."* Isaac's family encourages him. The congregation encourages him. God's plan for us is to encourage others. I look forward to hearing more songs on the organ from Isaac.

I want to thank Anne Schroeder and Jessica Westerman for singing "Wind Song" on Pentecost. Dylan Westerman assisted with playing the wind chimes. I also want to thank the Handbell Quartet of Diane Schultz, Kathy Derhaag, Wendy Corona and Carol Kiekow. They rang "Dona Nobis Pacem" on Pentecost. Carol Kiekow played "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" on the cymbells on Father's Day. Cymbells are bell castings mounted on a horizontal rack and played with a mallet. Thank you to all musicians!

*Thank you, Lord, for the joy of playing for you, in your holy place, for your people. May the music we play praise your name, comfort the hurting and lift our spirits.*

Kathy Heyda,  
Music Director/Organist



# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **T-shirts for Sale!**

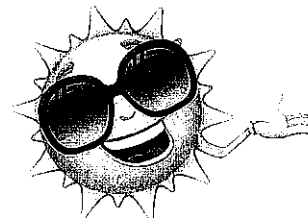


**Youth sizes M & L \$10      Adult sizes XS-XL**

**Available through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office**

## **Take Out Church Boxes**

**Summer Take out boxes are ready! Take out Church** is a way for your family to bring your faith to life with you on vacation this Summer. In this box are ways that you can Worship God, Grow as Disciples, and Love your Neighbors. Please take one box per family. Have fun, be safe, and take church with you this Summer!



## **LAKE DAY**

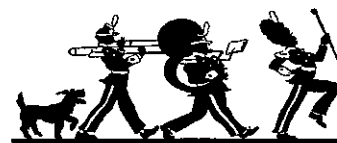
All League Lake Day - Friday, July 21 from 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for water fun, games and food. Bring a life jacket, swim suit and towel. Meet at church and we will go to Gregor's lake lot on Greenleaf Lake. You can also meet us directly at the lake if you want to come later. Sign up on youth bulletin board. Parents, please pick up kids at the lake lot by 8:00 p.m. Adult volunteers are needed to help chaperone event. Message or email Missy [mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org](mailto:mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org)

## **Kolacky Days Parade**

Walk in the Kolacky Days parade with St. John Lutheran Church's youth group! Steve and Anne Schroeder will be driving their fire truck and we will have treats to pass out. Friends welcome too! Sign up on youth bulletin board.

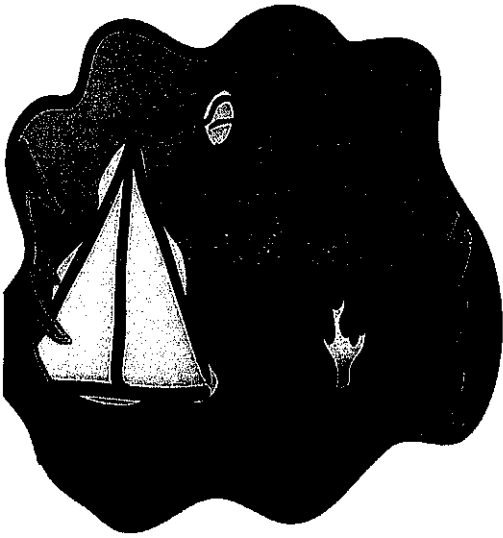
Adult volunteers needed to walk parade route. Message or email Missy if you can help [mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org](mailto:mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org)



## **2017 VBS Bible Campout - Getting S'more Out of Jesus**

VBS will be held Monday, August 7 thru Thursday, August 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All children are welcome. Invite your friends! Scholarships available. \$10 per child or \$25 for a family. Registration forms can be found in this newsletter, the back of the church and on our website. Please return form to the church office by August 1.





# 2017 St. John's VBS Bible Campout Getting S'more Out of Jesus

St John Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School

Held at

St. John Lutheran Church  
105 Spruce Ave. NW, Montgomery MN

Monday August 7	6:00 – 8:00pm
Tuesday August 8	6:00 – 8:00pm
Wednesday August 9	6:00 – 8:00pm
Thursday August 10	6:00 – 8:00pm

**THE LAST NIGHT will be held at the Richter's Woods Park**  
35672 173<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Montgomery, MN

All Children Welcome! Invite Your Friends! Scholarships Available call 507-364-5002  
\*Parents please plan on attending if child is not potty trained!

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## VBS Registration Form 2017

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Other Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Signature & Date

Willing to Volunteer \*Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 per child or \$25 for a family**  
Checks payable to St. John Lutheran notate VBS in Memo Line  
Please Return By August 1st  
**WEAR CLOTHES THAT CAN GET DIRTY!**